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Made in the

Houſe of LORDS IN IRELAND;

WHEN

The *Priviledge-Bill* was in Debate THERE.

DUBLIN:
Printed by S. HARDING, next Door to the *Crown* in *Copper-Alley*, 1728.

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My LORDS,

I Unfeignedly do own my ſelf to be one of the leaſt proper amongſt Your Lordſhips, to Trouble this moſt *Honourable Houſe*, with merely my own Notions; if I had no others to offer to Your Lordſhips Conſideration, concerning a Bill of the greateſt Importance, to this whole Kingdom; but which, the Misfor-

tune of my late ill State of Health, hath occaſioned my being, until very lately, altogether a Stranger unto; thro' my being diſabled from attending my Duty, either here in my Place, or at the Council-Board; and even from Converſing with any other of my Friends, except my Children: Yet my Lords, I was ſo deſirous of appriſing my ſelf which way to Vote, (as ſoon as I found my ſelf able to go abroad) for the True Intereſt, of this my Poor Diſtreſſed Country; that I Twice Intruded my ſelf amongſt ſuch Gentlemen, as I thought to be ſome of the moſt Competent Judges thereof; and with great Attention and Diſintereſtedneſs, I heard what was ſaid on both ſides of the Queſtion, by very Ingenious, and ſome Learned Gentlemen; Each of whom (as far as my Acquaintance with them reaches) I Value and Honour, as Perſons Acting without doubt, upon a Principle of Compaſſion, to the Deplorable Circumſtances, of this really Unfortunate, very Miſerable, and Abandoned Poor Country; notwithſtanding its Natural Fertility, thro' the goodneſs of a great deal of its Soil, under a happy Temperate Climate; and under the Government of one of the moſt Gracious and Indefatigable Kings, where the Publick Good is concerned, that We, or perhaps any other part of this World, ever had.

BUT

BUT my Lords give my Leave upon this Occaſion to take Notice to you, that there was not ſo much ſaid, in my humble Opinion, on the one Side; as to leave me the leaſt Room to think, that I judge Wrong, when in behalf of the other; and with your Lordſhips Leave, I will, as well as I am able, adapt part of what I heard as aforementioned, that carried the greateſt Weight with me; and lay the ſame now after my Manner, before your Lordſhips, as ſome of the Reaſons, which with others of my own, induce me to declare, that I am for paſſing the Bill, at preſent under a Debate.

BEFORE I proceed any further, I think it may become me, who had the Honour of being Created a Lord Baron, and Lord Viſcount of this Kingdom, by King *William* of Glorious Memory; to make a particular Apology to ſome Noble Lords, of whom there are ſeveral ſtill in this *Houſe*, who are deſcended from ſo Anciently Noble Anceſtors, that ſome of them were Noblemen even co-eval with, if not Created ſuch, before our Parliamentary Conſtitution had ſo much as a being in *Ireland*. Of thoſe few Lords I deſire with all due Deference, their not taking ill my making bold, with part of the Priviledges, con-

veyed down to them, with as Anciently a Noble Blood as perhaps any in our Neighbouring Kingdom, or the whole World can Glory in the having; besides whom there are at present, I do freely own not a few other Noble Peers of *Ireland*, Descended from Forefathers who were enobled some perhaps Hundreds of Years, at least more than one Hundred Years before any of my Family obtained that Honour, in this Kingdom.

BUT after my thus excusing my self to your Lordships, whom I have now the Honour to stile my Peers, I must desire that none of your Lordships will take it ill, my being as free of a superfluous part of your Priviledge, as I am about to be of my own: for I cannot forbear mentioning, that what will still remain to me, after the passing this Bill, is so thoroughly sufficient to enable me quietly to attend on the Carrying on the Publick Business, of this Nation; that my not heartly giving the rest of my now Priviledge up; would very much startle my own self, as apprehending that I should be too tenacious of a power, that I am deeply sensible, may be so used, as to become dangerously oppressive to the rest of my Fellow-Subjects: I most earnestly desire of the Lords descended from the *Fitz-Gerralds*, the *O'Briens*, the

Mac-

Dodalls, the *Nugents*, the *Dillons*, the *Fitz-Morrisses*, the *Butlers*, the *Netterville*, the *Bourks*, the *Birmingham*, the *De-Courcys*, the St. *Lawrences*, and the *Fitz-Patricks*; and indeed of several others of your Lordships, whose pardon I beg, for my omitting to name more Peers, who may have as Ancient a Right to be specified, upon this Occasion; and I take the Liberty of entreating every one of your Lordships, to take it reflectively into your serious Consideration, how numerous the Peerage is now, to what it was in those Ancient Times. I have some reason to believe, that we are at present very near ten to one, as to what their Number consisted of, than in those early Days; when Parliamentary-Priviledge, was first granted here, by the Crown; about the time, when some *British* Families, besides most of those great Ones aforenamed, together with their numerous Followers, and their Descendants; began to civilize, I had almost said to humanize, the then barbarous Savage Natives of *Ireland*. Therefore, it is farther worth being considered, in my humble Opinion; how great Territories those the first Parliamentary-Lords of *Ireland*, were in a manner absolutely Masters of; so as to be little Inferior in Power, as well as Extent of Territories; to what some Princes in *Germany*,

Germany, and *Italy*, are at preſent: for their reſpective *Clans*, or Followers, were as obſequious, and hearty in their Service, as the very Grand *Seignor's* Subjects ever were, or can be; and conſtantly took their Part, right or wrong, without ſcrupling to run into Rebellion whereſoever, and as often, as their Grandee-Leaders were ſo diſpoſed to do: the Caſe of *England* was pretty much the ſame, during the *Barons* Warrs there; for they, and they almoſt alone; were in a manner the Sole Proprietors of all the Land in *England*; except as to what they themſelves held under the Crown by *Baronage* conſiſting of more or leſs Knights Fees, for Service; and accordingly diſpoſed of amongſt their Followers and Dependants.

THIS prodigious Grandeur of a few Subjects, occaſion'd great Uneaſineſs to many of our Sovereigns; until King *Henry* the Seventh to remedy the ſame, gave them a boundleſs Power to ruin themſelves, by ſelling their Eſtates: and thus thro' the expenſive Prodigality, of many of our Anceſtors, moſt of the preſent Nobility, I am afraid a Majority in both Kingdoms, come to be much ſtreightned in their Fortunes: and naturally Power muſt attend the Poſſeſſors of Land, and the Generality, if not all ſuch, who by Induſtry, or

Trade

Trade, or by leſs creditable Means, got a Competency of Money; lay out the ſame, in the Purchaſe of Lands; and perhaps of Honour alſo.

I believe my Lords, it cannot but occur to each of your Obſervation, how Gold, the moſt precious of all Metals, ſinks in Value, proportionably to the new Diſcoveries of Gold-Mines; and our ever moſt gracious Sovereign, is an inexhauſtible Fountain of Honour, whenſoever he pleaſeth to exert it; which amongſt others, our late moſt gracious Sovereign ſo liberally did, that I remember in the firſt Seſſions here, after His happy Acceſſion to the Crown, no fewer than a dozen of Peers, were introduced almoſt immediately after one another, to their Places in this Houſe; where with great Pleaſure, I do now ſee ſeveral of their Lordſhip

AND my LORDS, I cannot forbear taking Notice upon this Occaſion, that in the next preceding Reign, and in that of King *William* the Third, we had ſome Noble Peers, who could not without great Difficulty be prevail'd upon, to diſmiſs from their Protection, a moſt extravagent Number of Retainers: before which ſeveral of theſe Lords had as great a Retinue; (that indeed appeared

pear'd only upon Paper;) as an unaccount-
ble young Gentleman not many Years ago
also had; (only upon Paper also;) whilst h
took a very odd Frolick, ruinous to other
as well as to himself; of imposing himsel
upon some Persons, as being the Prince o
Passaw.

SEVERAL Parliamentary Lords, an
Members, have under the Colour of Privi-
edge, proved much more fatal to a great
Number of our Fellow-Subjects; which can-
not but be very well known, to most of your
Lordships: I know of two very good Gen-
tlewomen, whose whole Fortune was so unhap-
pily put out to Interest; as to be afterwards
respectively debarr'd so long by Parliamen-
tary-Priviledge, from going to Law for
their just Debt; that at last it became irre-
coverable, thro' their Creditors then proving
Insolvent, and so the two Gentlewomen who
were Orphans, were themselves deplorably
quite undone: the same Misfortune, or really
Oppression, may if this Bill shou'd not pass,
likewise amongst others, so far attend a cer-
tain Widow-Lady; as to occasion her Loss,
of twelve hundred Pounds: and my Lords, I
very credibly heard of Mr. *Arch-Deacon*
Neal's, having been kept out of his just and
lawful

awful Dues, merely by Parliamentary Priledge, during full twenty Years.

I fear my Lords, that ſuch Inſtances as hese, may become Numberleſs; if ſuch a errible oppreſſive Grievance, as the long Continuation of Parliamentary Priviledge, hould remain; to no fewer than three undred Members of the *Houſe of Commons*, nd to already very near half as many Lords; nd to all, of each of their Servants; upon he foot it now is. The Members of the *Houſe of Commons*, have by paſſing the Bill, ow under a Debate, before your Lordhips, unanimouſly given their Conſent to bridge their time of Priviledge; and ſurely our Lordſhips will not ſhew your ſelves leſs tender, of our and their fellow Subjects, than hey have lately thought fit unanimouſly to do; for elſe we ſhall put a no inconſiderable Number of very good Perſons, (and that for a conſiderable time,) in as bad a Condition, as if they were Out-lawed; which God forbid, ſhould prove to be the Caſe.

I have already lay'd before your Lordſhips, how the Peerage is grown leſs powerful, tho' much more Numerous; and conſequently leſs conſiderable, then it Originally was: and even His Majeſty Himſelf, Great and

and Powerful, as I thank God for it, h
really is; cannot if He would, make th
Peerage now, what it Anciently, Actuall
was: and tho' it is His Undoubted Prero
gative, to make His coined Gold to pas
Current for what His Royal Will, and
Pleasure may think fit to order it; yet He
ca not thereby set a Value upon the Pro
perty of His Subjects; for they will res
pectively set a Price accordingly upon their
own Goods; and that Proportionably, to
their respective Intrinsick Value.

NOW my Lords, as it is looked upon to
be no better than mere Tyranny, in any other
Sovereign than our own, to Set a merely
imaginary Value, on the Current Coin; so
let us beware our passing for petty Tyrants,
by our chusing to be formidable, thro' the
overvaluing of our Peerage: let us my Lords
rather gain our fellow Subjects hearty good
Will, by acting as so many good Genius's of
the Nation; which in my humble Opinion,
we may obtain at as cheap a Rate, as the
giving our respective Content, towards the
passing of this Bill.

FINIS.